

Christ the Saviour Newsletter 1

26th June 2021



Dear friends,

Welcome to this first edition of our new monthly Newsletter at Christ the Saviour.

Inside you will find: an article by our MU Leader, details of our Gift Days on Saturday 3rd July and Sunday 4th July, and news of some other forthcoming events.

Ealing is certainly coming back to life, and it is a joy to see. Many are taking an admirably serious approach to the Evening Standard's recent exhortation for each Briton to drink an extra 124 pints this year, that the pub trade might reach pre-pandemic levels (those who don't drink might instead consume an additional 976 packets of crisps or 40 roast dinners at the bar, they suggest.....!).

Anyway, campaigners have produced a "Your Local Pub Needs You" poster, which asks punters to support 40,000 pubs and bars that are fighting to stay afloat. The poster states: "The average pub will need each customer to spend an additional £382 this year to combat the impact that Covid has had on the sector, ending "Thank you for doing your bit!".

In introducing this Newsletter, I would like to thank you for your participation in the life of God's church at Christ the Saviour and in Ealing. We are a wonderful company of people, united in faith and in our commitment to our community.

So please, let me echo the words of those campaigners for pubs, "Your Local Church Needs You" and "Thank you for doing your bit".

What is happening at Christ the Saviour now?

The doors to church have been open for some weeks now, and it has been wonderful to welcome existing members of the community – and newcomers – to spend time in quiet and prayer as we open from 12noon to 2pm every day and to the masses on Sunday (8am, 10.30am and 5.30pm) and from Monday – Saturday at 12.30pm. Our records show that on most days between 20 and 30 people have been calling in to pray. And on Sundays numbers have averaged over 100 people over the three services, which on occasion is approaching our capacity for the building while Covid restrictions remain in force. I would like to pay tribute to all who have welcomed people to pray and to worship and who have cleaned and prepared the church on a daily basis. Thank you so much!

After the enforced dormancy of the last months, we have necessarily taken a gradual approach to resuming normal service in line with the equally gradual relaxing (...and tightening and relaxing again...) of Covid restrictions. Our priority has been to keep people safe, but to offer as warm a welcome as possible, and to support people's spiritual lives as well as we can. The Church has always been the institution to which people – even non-churchgoers – look to mark significant events. And whilst we are coming to terms with the knowledge that Covid is going to be around in one form or another for a long while to come, the hoped-for ultimate relaxation of restrictions over the summer is a milestone which is unquestionably worth celebrating. It is, moreover, a foundation for what will happen next.

What will be happening next?

In September on we will be restarting our Sunday school and other provision for families on Sunday mornings. We will also be holding a 'new to church' evening, which will be an opportunity to meet each other and to talk together, and perhaps to begin a course of study in which we could explore some of the issues which we face as church and society, as we seek to discover what the "new normal" will look like. As opportunities to make music together appear to be coming closer, our hope is to appoint a permanent Director of Music during the autumn, with the intention of offering opportunities to sing for people of all ages. We will also be offering an opportunity to come together as a community, to give thanks for all who have sustained our life during the pandemic in different ways, and to pause to remember those who have died, and to give thanks for our deliverance.

It would be a delight to welcome new people at all of these events, and to our regular daily and weekly worship – so please do bring along friends and family. How wonderful it will be to be able to say without hesitation: the more the merrier!

Finally, an invitation and a request

As I have already said, many people have pulled together to keep our church going during the pandemic and to begin the process of re-opening. There is opportunity for many more to help as we open again fully. Do please contact Fr Richard or Gary Toneguzzo, our Churchwarden and Parish Administrator, for information about joining the ministry of welcome, the cleaning and gardening teams, the Sunday School leaders, altar servers or choir.

And if you are able to make a financial contribution to our work, either regularly or on a one-off basis, this would be accepted with deep gratitude. We are holding Gift Days on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th July. In common with most organisations, our income at Christ the Saviour fell dramatically during the pandemic. While we sought to reduce expenditure wherever possible, some things remain vital, such as church insurance and our contribution to the Common Fund, from which the clergy of the diocese are paid. So far, we have only been able to offer £65,000 towards the Common Fund, in contrast to our pre-pandemic £85,000. In order to secure our mission for the future, both as a local parish and as part of the wider Church, we need to consider our financial offering alongside our offering of time and talent.

In order to maintain our work, we are asking you to consider the following:

- **If you are new to the church or not yet a regular giver, would you commit to regular monthly giving?**
- **If you are already a regular giver, would you review your giving to keep up with growth?**
- **And please will you make an additional donation over our Gift Weekend, 3rd and 4th July?**

I and members of the PCC will be in church from 11am until 3pm on Saturday 3rd July and after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 4th July until 3pm to receive your Gifts and completed Standing Order Instruction and Gift Aid Declaration (if you are a UK taxpayer we can claim 25% tax refund on your giving - so let's not waste that!).

Once again, thank you. With God's help we will continue our work together for the growth of his Kingdom in our midst.

During the Gift Days, we will be able to talk with you about our hopes and plans for Christ the Saviour, to pray with you and to thank you for your generosity.

I write this with great gratitude for who you are and what you do, profound hope that the darkest days of these past months are now behind us and a deep desire to serve you as your parish priest and to carry on working with you to proclaim God's Kingdom.

With my love and prayers,



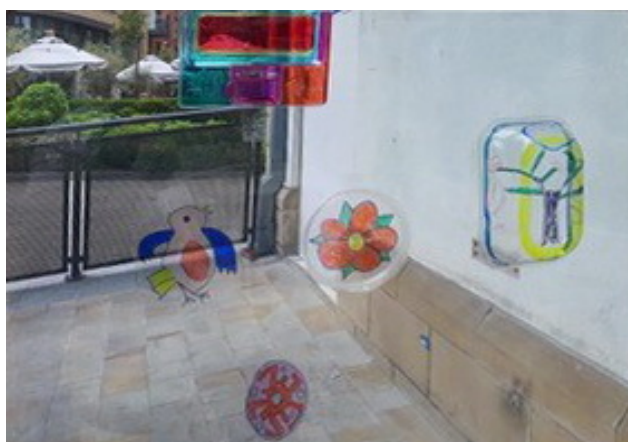
On the morning of Saturday 19th June, the Mothers Union branch held a Covid- appropriate meeting in the church hall entitled 'Summer of Hope'. We opened in prayer then went on to discuss two bible readings (Isaiah 35:1-10, Romans 5:2-6) and how we had each gained or maintained hope through our faith during the pandemic. The connection between God and nature was also explored.

A selection of bedding plants were donated for the atrium pots.
Coffee and cakes were enjoyed as some participants made colourful sun-catchers.

Continuing the theme of summer and nature we then had a short history of the life of St Francis of Assisi before reading and discussing the Canticle of the Sun which was written by him. We were all delighted to be able to meet in person even though it had to be a small group and left for mass in church feeling refreshed in body and spirit.

Regards

Pauline



To contribute to Christ the Saviour church, please visit <https://pay.churchdesk.com/CtDP.OfQ8>.
Or scan:



Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity in ensuring Christ the Saviour continues to be a warm, welcoming, house of prayer here at the heart of Ealing Broadway.